

[11 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) whether there is any scheme to encourage farmers for plantation of trees in agriculture land;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, whether Government would formulate such a scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The National Forest Policy, 1988 envisages that the individuals and institution should be motivated and facilitated to undertake tree-farming and growing of fodder plants, grasses and legumes on the their own lands.

(c) to (e) There is no specific Centrally Sponsored Scheme specially to take up plantation works on the agricultural lands of the formers. However, seedlings are made available from the nurseries of State Forest Departments on subsidized rates for the benefit of the farmers. The department of Land Resources is implementing Desert Development, Drought Prone Area Development and Integrated Wastelands Development Programmes for the development of wastelands/degraded land on watershed basis. The programmes are being developed with active community participation by means of in-situ soil and moisture conservation including pasture development and tree plantation on common lands where the agricultural lands form part of the wastelands to be developed.

Maintenance of Sewage under Ganga Action Plan

2191. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the State's failure to operate and maintain the sewage generated in towns along the river Ganga under Action Plan I;

(b) the action proposed to ask the State Governments to properly maintain the sewage treatment plants, sewage pumping stations, etc., to keep the Ganga clean; and

(c) the progress made in executing the second phase of the Ganga Action Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The State Governments, particularly Bihar and Uttar Pradesh involved in the Ganga Action Plan Phase I have not been able to provide adequate and timely funds for operating the sewage treatment plants and sewage pumping stations constructed under the plan. Erratic and poor availability of electricity for running these assets is another reason for unsatisfactory operation and maintenance. As a result the impact of the works completed under the Plan is not adequately visible.

(b) The State Government have been asked to make a provision of adequate funds for operation and maintenance in their State budget and to ensure continuous supply of electricity for assets through dedicated feeders wherever required.

(c) Out of the approved cost of Rs. 1276.26 crore, an expenditure of Rs. 467.69 crore has been incurred on the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II which is under implementation. The details are as follows:

	<i>(Rs. in crore)</i>
Yamuna	431.87
Ganga	23.62
Gomti	12.20
Damodar	Nil

Works on Damodar have not started so far as these have been given low priority by State Governments. Works on Yamuna Action Plan are in an advanced stage. Under Ganga Action Plan Phase II about 1861 million litres per day of waste water is targeted to be intercepted, diverted and treated, of which a capacity to treat 208 million litres per day of waste water has been created with the completion of 9 sewage treatment plants under Yamuna Action Plan.